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Ethanol Coalition of Michigan (ECOM)-NEWS



Who We Are

The Ethanol Coalition of Michigan (ECOM) unites commodity organizations, fuel suppliers, educators, producers, businesses, government agencies and individuals who are interested in expanding the production and use of ethanol in Michigan.

ECOM goals include: increasing public awareness on the benefits of ethanol; supporting legislative efforts, encouraging positive ethanol marketing practices and presenting ethanol educational programs to schools, civic groups and other interested parties.

Contact Information

If you are interested in receiving ECOM NEWS or have ethanol-related information to submit for this publication, contact Jan Patrick, MI Energy Office-Biomass Energy Program Manager at (517) 241-6153 or by email at: jpatri@michigan.gov

Additional ethanol information is available on the Biomass Energy Program website at <http://michiganbioenergy.org/ethanol>

ECOM Activities

2004 Goals & Activities

In February group objectives and activities for 2004 were determined. Activities will include: meeting quarterly to discuss member activities and address current ethanol issues; completing an ethanol education plan that will describe what member organizations are currently focusing on and what areas may need additional attention; and drafting a paper that outlines key issues that need to be addressed in the state to encourage increased ethanol use and production.

Michigan Happenings

Two New Ethanol Plants Planned for Michigan

Currently, Michigan has one ethanol plant, located in Caro that converts about 40,000 bushels of corn a day into fuel. Two additional facilities may be on their way to Lenawee and Barry Counties. Construction on the plant in Barry County, five miles from Lake Odessa in the town of Woodbury, is expected to begin this summer. The plant will likely convert 16 million bushels of corn into 45 million gallons of ethanol a year. This site may qualify as an Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zone, however, must first be approved as such by the local government. Currently, no specifications are available on the proposed plant in Lenawee County. In addition to promoting a cleaner burning fuel, this increased demand for corn could increase its value by 10 to 15 cents per bushel according to MonroeNews.com. (Source: Grand Rapids Press 2/08/04)

Biofuel Infrastructure Funding Available

Biofuel Infrastructure Incentive Grants are available through the Michigan Biomass Energy Program to private corporations; schools, colleges, and universities; state and local governments; and agriculture cooperatives to plan, implement and evaluate a refueling site. Biofuel is defined as either E85 (85% ethanol/15% gasoline) or biodiesel (minimum 20% blend). All projects must be based in Michigan. Proposals are due April 14, 2004. The maximum grant award will be \$24,500. For further information, contact Tim Shireman at 517-241-6281 or tashire@michigan.gov.

AFV Odyssey Day in Lansing

The Michigan site for the National AFV Day Odyssey: *Showcasing Smarter Choices in Transportation* will take place west of Lansing on Friday April, 2nd at the Sheraton Hotel. This event will compare the economic and environmental advantages offered by today's clean alternative fuel vehicles. Presentations will be made by key stakeholders in the alternative fuels industry who will focus on the need for alternative fuels, availability and impacts of feedstock fuels, local infrastructure and the outlook for the future. For registration information please contact tblowers@llc.edu or call (517) 267 5880.

Michigan Happenings-continued

11 New Agricultural Processing Zones Approved

State of Michigan officials have recently announced that Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zones (APRZ's) have been renewed. Eleven new zones can be designated, increasing the total number to twenty. The State has also eliminated the deadline to authorize APRZ's. Biofuel production facilities such as biodiesel and ethanol would be eligible to apply for APRZ status, which allows the company a tax abatement for up to fifteen years. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) works closely with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and other local agencies to implement and administer APRZ's. For more information, contact Robert Craig, Director, MDA Agriculture Development Division at (517) 241-2177 or via e-mail at craigr@michigan.gov.

Other Updates

Updated Ethanol Guideline Manual Available

The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) Technical Committee recently updated the Fuel Ethanol-Industry Guidelines, Specifications, and Procedures Manual. The document outlines key technical aspects of fuel grade ethanol use based on the experiences and expertise of RFA member companies. This document may serve as a condensed technical reference for ethanol producers, ethanol blenders, and other interested parties. (Source: RFA Newsletter #197) (2/5/2004)

New Record: Ethanol Production up in 2003

- December 2003, a record 207,000 barrels per day (b/d) produced, up from 194,000 b/d, the previous months record
- 2.81 billion gallons produced in 2003, up 32% from 2002 and 91% from 2001
(Source: Energy Information Administration)

2004 Upcoming Events

National AFV Day Odyssey

April 2

Various locations in the U.S. including Lansing, MI
Sheridan Hotel, 925 S. Creyts Road

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Email: tblowers@llc.edu

Website: www.nationalafvdayodyssey.org

Greater Lansing Area Clean Cities — *Advancing the Choice*

May 20

Lansing, Michigan

Contact: Bill Wolfe, Lansing Clean Cities

Email: wolfecleancities@hotmail.com

Website: <http://www.michigancleancities.org/>

20th Annual International Fuel Ethanol Workshop and Tradeshow

June 22—25

Madison, Wisconsin

Contact: BBI International

Phone: (719) 942 4353

Website: www.bbiethanol.com

17th Annual ACE Meeting and Ethanol Conference

August 10—12

Duluth, Minnesota

Contact: Wendy Buren, American Coalition for Ethanol

Email: wbburen@ethanol.org

Website: www.ethanol.org/conference.htm